

Georgetown U of T Student T... of Demonstrations

by Tom Forgrave

It is now 1:10 a.m. Sunday, March 14, in front of the United States Consulate on University Avenue about 50 students are preparing to spend the night on the sidewalk. At SCM House a task force is preparing sandwiches, soup and hot chocolate for the demonstrators. At the office of the Students' Administrative Council another group is making the final plans for the "freedom ride" to Ottawa. In Hart House discussion groups are still in session. The five phone lines in the SAC office are alive with the voices of reporters and organizers.

The reason for all this activity is a group of negro people in the southern United States who, one week ago today were beaten with clubs and trampled by horses when their voter registration demonstration was broken up by Alabama State Troopers. John Lewis, who was to speak at the University College graduation banquet last Wednesday, suffered a fractured skull and other injuries in that incident. It has provoked an unprecedented arousal of the social conscience of University of Toronto students.

On Wednesday, when the demonstration began, about 40 students sat down on the sidewalk in front of the Consulate. Since then there have been as many as 200 in the group. As often as not the sitting group is accompanied by a group of marching picketers.

Public support of the demonstration has been unbelievable. Passing motorists invariably slow down, wave or blow their horn in greeting. Over \$2500 has been received in voluntary donations at the time of writing and the total swells

by the moment. Catering companies have donated coffee and food. One man, looking for his daughter, bought the whole group sandwiches and coffee on Wednesday night. Individuals bring cartons of cigarettes, money and moral support for the group on the sidewalk.

The attention of North America has been focused on that sidewalk as the wire services and other news media have spread the story across Canada and the United States. Messages of appreciation have come from Alabama. While everyone involved realizes that the protest is not likely to have any immediate results, the moral support offered to the people in Alabama by this and similar demonstrations has been deeply appreciated. Civil rights workers often feel that they are working in a vacuum and this support from outside has meant a great deal to them.

In an interview yesterday afternoon Prime Minister Pearson expressed his sympathy with the demonstrators and promised to address the group which will march in Ottawa later today. Ten buses and many private cars will leave Toronto at 8 this morning. In Ottawa they will be joined by students from various Canadian universities in a march on the United States Embassy.

It has been an exciting week in Toronto. It has been an important week for while the original demonstrators were mainly SNCC people the group on the sidewalk now is composed mainly of students who do not usually express themselves. It has been the most consistent expression of public opinion which the students of this university have offered in some time, if not ever.

Forecast Many Improvements With Proposed Library Co-op

Plans for the formation of a Regional Library Co-operative will be discussed by the Trustees and Chief Librarians of all public libraries in the municipalities of Halton, Wentworth and Brant Counties at a meeting to be held in Burlington at the Estaminet Restaurant on March 27th.

The project has been under study for two years. The need for Regional Libraries springs from surveys made during the past decade showing that libraries have not responded to today's demand for greatly increased informational services. A Steering Committee appointed in May, 1964, and composed of Mr. C. W. Johnson of Waterdown as Chairman, Mr. E. H. Bucknerfield, Oakville, Mr. H. Charbonneau of Brampton, Mr. John H. Moore of Hamilton (succeeding Mrs. J. D. Taylor of Hamilton) and Miss Ida Ruddy of Burlington, will present their report calling for the formation of a South Central Ontario Regional Library Co-operative. Financing will be in the form of a grant from the Province of Ontario.

The South Central Ontario Regional Library Co-operative covers a population of just over half a million people. Autonomy of local boards is to be strictly preserved. The Regional will act as planners and advisors to participating libraries by (1) planning and strengthening reference services, (2) promoting inter-library loans, (3) co-operating with film councils, school, college and university libraries and adult education agencies to improve co-ordination and service, (4) sponsor meetings or courses in library trusteeship and professional development, etc. and (5) coordinate book purchasing to effect savings.

The meeting will be addressed by Mrs. Margaret Beckman of Kitchener, well known for her strong views on the Robbsey Twins types of children's books. Discussion groups of Trustees will consider such matters as Library legislation, organization of "Friends of the Library", budgets and buildings.

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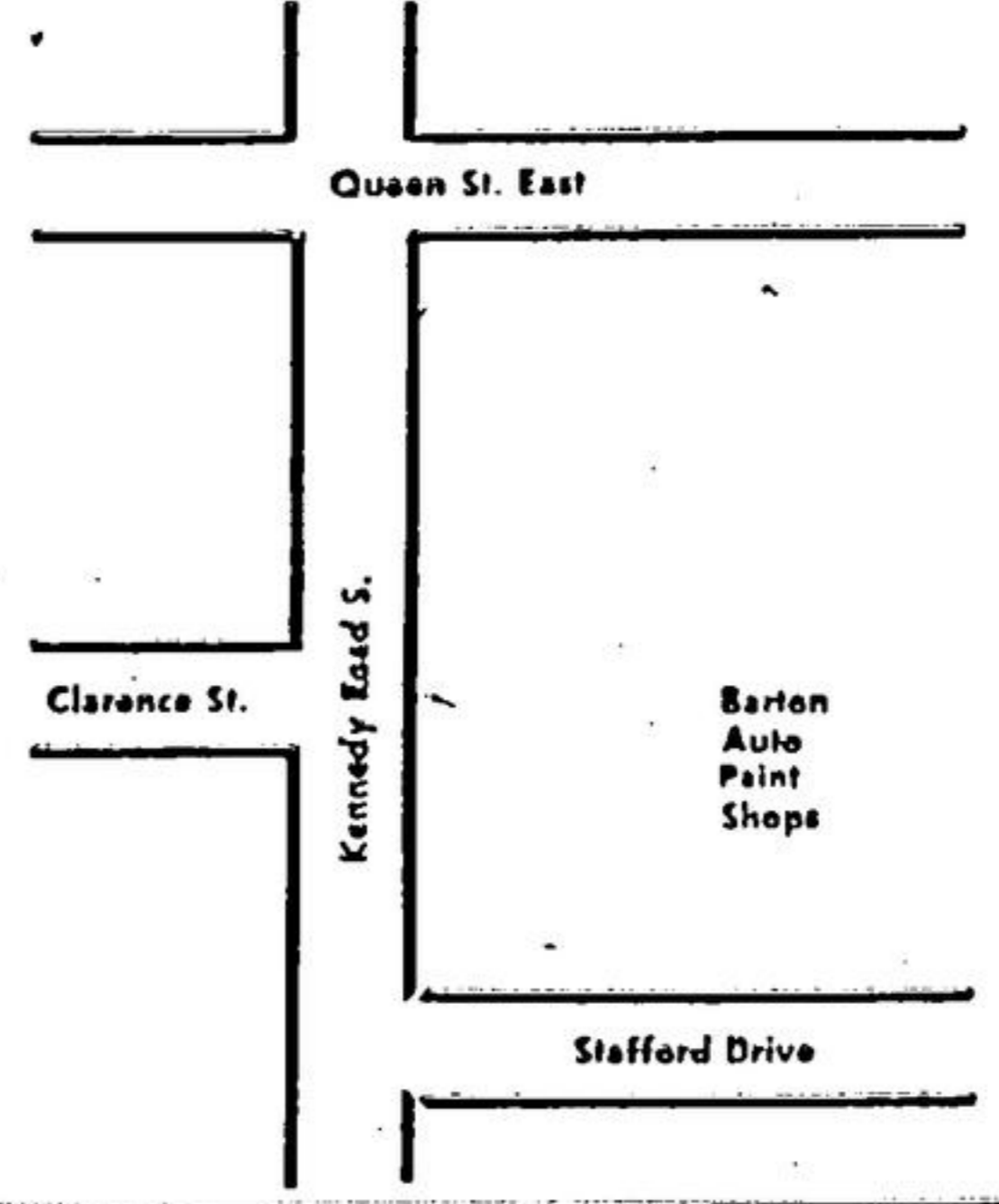
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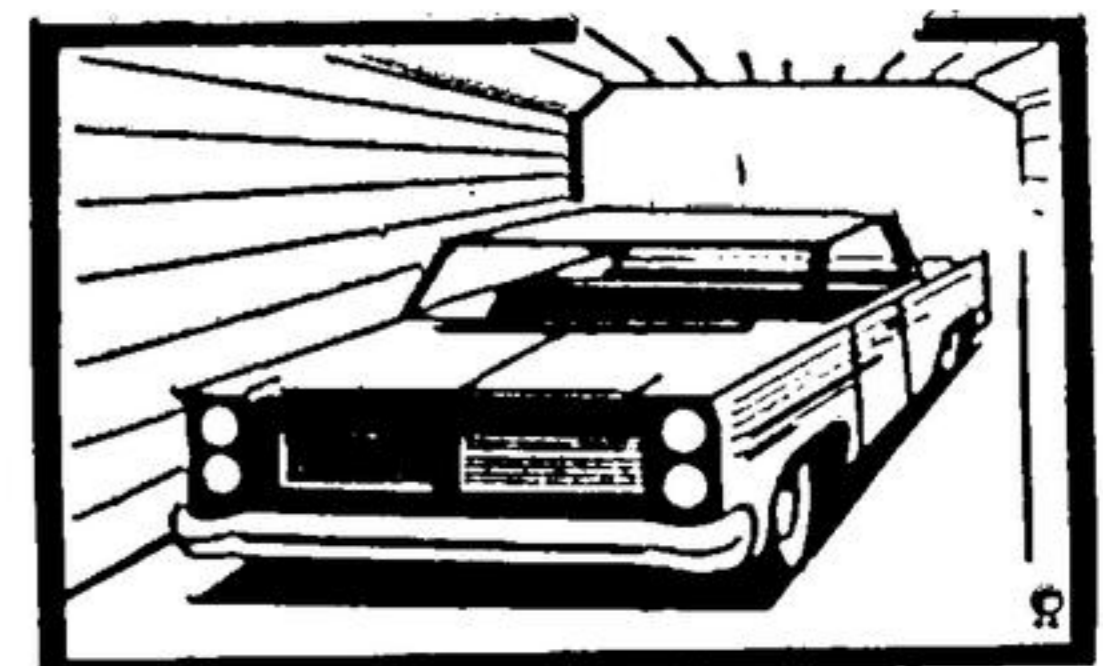
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